

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 28-29, 2016**

Prepared on June 28, 2016

**ITEM NUMBER: 17**

**SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

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This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS**

[Phil Hammer 805/549-3882]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from March 12, 2016 - June 10, 2016.

**401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received March 12, 2016 - June 10, 2016**

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
City of Santa Cruz Public Works Dept.- Nathan Nguyen	3/21/2016	Branciforte Creek Bridge and Multi-Use Path	To provide a convenient crossing of Branciforte Creek for bicyclists, pedestrians, and light duty service vehicles, and to maintain the continuity of the existing bike and pedestrian levee path system.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Branciforte Creek	0.72 acres/ 700 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Monterey County Resource Management Agency- Isabelo Dela Merced	3/24/2016	Las Lomas Drainage Project	To address flooding in Las Lomas by improving storm water conveyance and drainage through drainage system improvements along Thomas Road and near the junction of Hall Road and Las Lomas Drive.	Las Lomas	Monterey	Unnamed tributary to Carneros Creek	0.45 acres/ 2,017 linear feet	Incomplete
Glen Loma Corporation- Augie Dent	3/30/2016	Glen Loma Ranch West	To develop a residential community consistent with the Glen Loma Ranch Specific Plan.	Gilroy	Santa Clara	Uvas Creek	1.09 acres/ 41 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Richard S. Kline	3/31/2016	Rancho San Lorenzo Bank Stabilization	To obtain permitting for permanent bank stabilization activities that occurred under an Emergency RGP 63 Permit.	Los Alamos	Santa Barbara	Canada Laguna Seca, a tributary to San Antonio Creek	0.127 acres/ 230 linear feet	Under Staff Review
ETAM, Inc.- Robert Lindemann	4/4/2016	Estelle Vineyard Estates- Road Crossings	To replace undersized and degraded culverts at three locations to allow access to the residential building envelopes.	Santa Ynez	Santa Barbara	Unnamed Drainages	0.179 acres	Under Staff Review
City of Santa Barbara, Public Works- Ashleigh Shue	4/8/2016	Debris Fin at Indio Muerto Culvert at Sycamore Creek	To prevent large debris from piling up in front of the culvert and causing flooding.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Sycamore Creek	0.0067 acres	Under Staff Review

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Fort Hunter Liggett-Gregory Vallery	4/25/2016	Mission Road Improvement Project	To improve roadway conditions by realigning two curves, demolishing the abandoned roadway and facilities, and restoring native vegetation to disturbed areas along 1.2 mi. of Mission Road.	Fort Hunter Liggett	Monterey	San Antonio River	0.19 acres/ 370 linear feet	Under Staff Review
CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife-Julie Vance	4/27/2016	Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project, Phase 1	To restore tidal marsh, reduce tidal erosion, improve water quality, provide sea-level rise resilience, increase carbon sequestration, improve ecosystem function, and support the recovery of the southern sea otter within areas of Elkhorn Slough that have been altered by past land use practices.	Castroville	Monterey	Elkhorn Slough	44.5 acres/ 8950 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Carmel River Steelhead Association-Brian LeNeve	5/9/2016	Carmel River Lagoon Large Woody Debris Augmentation	To install large 11 large wood debris and boulder complexes in the Carmel River Lagoon in order to enhance steelhead trout rearing habitat.	Carmel	Monterey	Carmel River Lagoon	1 acre/ 1000 linear feet	Under Staff Review
County of San Luis Obispo- Dave Flynn	5/10/2016	Air Park Drive Bridge Replacement	To improve public safety by replacing the structurally deficient timber Air Park Drive Bridge over Meadow Creek Lagoon with a modern reinforced concrete bridge.	Oceano	San Luis Obispo	Meadow Creek	0.21 acres/ 152 linear feet	Under Staff Review
Biagio Wines-Chris Ferrara	5/19/2016	Biagio Winery Entrance Project	To expand two existing diameter corrugated metal culverts to support widening an existing driveway for the purposes of accommodating emergency vehicles.	Templeton	San Luis Obispo	Salinas River	0.069 acres/ 181 linear feet	Under Staff Review
ExxonMobil Corporation-Jack Jones	5/26/2016	Permanent Culvert Replacement Venadito Canyon Road	To replace a temporarily repaired culvert with a permanent, properly sized culvert.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	Tributary to Venadito Canyon Creek	0.01 acres/ 60 linear feet	Under Staff Review
County of Santa Cruz Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Serv. - Jeff Gaffney	5/27/2016	CCC Water Quality Project	To address the nutrient rich runoff in the Pinto Lake Watershed by capturing sediment and reducing the loading of nutrients to Pinto Lake.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	CCC Creek	0.23 acres	Incomplete
County of Santa Cruz Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Serv. - Jeff Gaffney	5/27/2016	Amesti Water Quality Project	To address the nutrient rich runoff in the Pinto Lake Watershed by capturing sediment and reducing the loading of nutrients to Pinto Lake.	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	Amesti Creek	0.91 acres	Incomplete
City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department-Andrew Grubb	5/27/2016	Montecito Street Bridge Replacement and Pedestrian Improvements Project	To improve public safety, accommodate bicyclists, and enhance pedestrian access.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Sycamore Creek	0.02 acres/ 72 linear feet	Incomplete
Santa Clara Valley Water District-Stephen Ferranti	6/2/2016	Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project	To manage flood risk in Upper Llagas Creek Watershed.	Morgan Hill	Santa Clara	Little Llagas Creek and Llagas Creek	40.2 acres	Incomplete

<sup>1</sup>Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

**401 Water Quality Certifications Issued March 12, 2016 - June 10, 2016**

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature <sup>2</sup>	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>
County of San Luis Obispo- Dave Flynn	4/22/2016	Cypress Mountain Drive Bridge Replacement	To replace a structurally deficient bridge with a new bridge that will be widened to standard lane and shoulder width requirements.	Adelaida	San Luis Obispo	Klau Creek	N/A	0.42 acres/ 795 feet
City of Santa Barbara, Creeks Division- Erin Markey	4/25/2016	Arroyo Burro Restoration at Barger Canyon	To restore approximately 2,200 linear feet of riparian habitat along upper Arroyo Burro Creek in Barger Canyon.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Arroyo Burro Creek	N/A	3.5 acres/ 1008 linear feet
City of Santa Barbara-Karl Treiberg	4/29/2016	Sea Landing Gangway	To install an ADA compliant gangway and additional dock space.	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	N/A	0.09 acres/ 90 linear feet
Southern California Gas Company- Chance Allen	5/23/2016	SoCal Gas Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan	To remove existing pipeline spans across San Luis Obispo Creek that are no longer in service.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek	N/A	0.002 acres/ 40 linear feet

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

<sup>[2]</sup> Low Impact Development (LID) Retention Features are stormwater management structures designed to retain stormwater on-site, such as bioretention cells, infiltration trenches, etc.

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**GRANTS PROGRAM -**

[Katie McNeill (805) 549-3336]

This report provides an update on grant funding in the region.

**319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program**

On April 26, 2016, the State Water Board announced the Project List for the 2016 Clean Water Act (CWA) 319(h) Nonpoint Source (NPS) Grant Program. The Project List identifies projects approved for grant funding and includes two projects in the Central Coast Region. Staff assisted with the prioritization, solicitation, review, and selection of these and other NPS projects throughout the state. The grants will be managed by Central Coast Water Board staff.

Project Title	Applicant	Project Description	CWA 319 Funds Requested (\$)	Applicant Match (\$)	Total Project Cost (\$)
Pajaro Watershed Toxicity Reduction Project	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County	The RCD of Santa Cruz County, in partnership with UC Davis Granite Canyon Labs, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, UCCE, NRCS, and large growers, will implement practices to reduce pesticide loading and toxicity from agricultural land uses at a minimum of eight sites treating a minimum of 500 acres in the Lower Pajaro, Lower Llagas, and the Watsonville Slough watersheds. The project will implement a suite of sediment basins, grassed water ways, vegetated treatments, activated carbon treatments, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) measures at regional downstream collective sites, edge of field sites, and on-farm sites. The practices will target the dynamic nature of pesticide use, from organophosphate pesticides (such as chlorpyrifos and diazinon) to	\$499,715	\$166,584	\$666,299

		pyrethroids and neonicotinoids (such as imidacloprid). Anticipated pesticide load reductions are from 25% to 96%. This collaborative project will evaluate reductions in pesticides and toxicity addressed by TMDLs, as well as newer classes of pesticides, such as neonicotinoids. The project partners will conduct a field tour of the sites and make presentations at forums to demonstrate outcomes to growers, landowners, and other interested stakeholders.			
<b>Strawberry Certification Program</b>	California Strawberry Commission	The California Strawberry Commission (CSC) will partner with SureHarvest, strawberry growers and shippers, and work with Water Board staff, to develop a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party certification program in the Pajaro, Lower Salinas, and Santa Maria/Oso Flaco watersheds. The CSC will develop a set of specific required farming practices, water quality monitoring protocols, and performance metrics for irrigation and nutrient management efficiency. It will also develop software infrastructure and auditing and verification protocols. The CSC will work with a third party accreditor in coordination with Water Board staff. By the end of the three-year grant, the program will enroll and certify approximately 50 growing operations implementing a suite of practices to minimize pollutant loading from approximately 10,000 acres of strawberries. This project will potentially benefit DACs throughout the region by reducing nitrate contamination of groundwater resources; improving surface water conditions in streams; and reducing the risk from pesticide exposure for farmworkers and communities surrounding the farms. The strawberry certification program has the potential to result in a reduction in pollutant loading at a regional and statewide scale, as the CSC will be reaching out to all growers of strawberries in the region (~25,000 acres), accounting for approximately 80% of strawberry growers in the state of California.	\$613,244	\$213,706	\$826,950

Grant proposals are solicited annually. For more information on the CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program, visit the following website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/grant\\_program.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grant_program.shtml)

## PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT/REPORTING AND DRINKING WATER PROTECTION DASHBOARD

[Angela Schroeter (805) 542-4644 and John Robertson (805) 549-3140]

### **Performance Measurement, Transparency, and the Dashboard:**

In each Executive Officer's Report since late 2012, Groundwater Protection Section staff has reported on case closure performance metrics for the Underground Storage Tank (UST – Chris Adair, program manager) and Site Cleanup Programs (SCP – Thea Tryon, program manager), as shown in Tables 3 and 4 (attached). These tables depict fiscal-year program performance relative to performance targets set prior to the start of each fiscal year. Developing dashboard measures for each Central Coast Water Board program establishes organizational transparency, allowing those outside the Water Board to better understand how programs are performing relative to their respective goals and water quality outcomes. The metrics we provide in the Executive Officer's Report establish a dashboard but are only a fraction of the measures each program uses to evaluate effectiveness and efficiency.

Often, program staff develops performance measures *and* subsequent information management (data) requirements, systems, and reports to feed these measures. In some programs this work is very challenging and progress can be slow. In the months ahead, we will be adding to our Executive Officer's Report dashboard, starting this month with Drinking Water Protection, and with each addition, we increase our transparency and accountability towards meaningful water quality outcomes. In the case of Drinking Water Protection that follows, staff has identified performance measures and is now developing data management and reporting tools, so the new dashboard measures are under construction. However, as protection of human health is one of our highest priorities, we have elected to use this as our first addition to the dashboard.

### **Drinking Water Protection Dashboard Additions:**

As part of regular updates on Environmental Justice issues, we have provided information on a number of drinking water cases that staff are tracking and working on. The Drinking Water Protection Dashboard will communicate progress and success related to drinking water case management, and these metrics are included in Table 1 below. The dashboard metrics allow the measurement of progress as a priority drinking water case becomes active and moves from the initial assessment phase, to implementation of interim replacement water actions, and finally to formal requirements for replacement water and nitrate loading reductions. Each of the dashboard metrics/columns represent a tangible step in ensuring safe drinking water and working towards source reduction.

At this time, staff is evaluating State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and individual county environmental health water system data to assess the drinking water protection performance metrics and populate the dashboard for the Central Coast region. The data is most advanced for Monterey County. Table 1 depicts each measurement category, however, after information reporting development is completed, we may narrow the dashboard to just the first and last two columns, similar to the categories reported for UST and SCP in Table 3.

**Table 1. Groundwater Section Drinking Water Protection Performance Dashboard**

No. of Priority Drinking Water Cases	No. of Active Drinking Water Cases in Assessment	No. of Active Drinking Water Cases with Interim Replacement Water Actions	No. of Active Drinking Water Cases with Replacement Water and Nitrogen Load Reduction Requirements
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

**Number of Priority Drinking Water Cases:**

This metric defines the universe of priority drinking water cases in the Central Coast region that the Water Board further prioritizes for assignment to staff. The metric includes the following drinking water systems regulated by DDW or the local county environmental health agency:

- Public Water Systems (serving 15 or more connections or serving 25 or more people at least 60 days/year), or Local or State small water systems (2-14 connections) with nitrate contamination that serve disadvantaged communities (DACs) or sensitive populations (e.g. infants, children, pregnant women).
- Local or State small water systems (2-14 connections) with nitrate contamination and no drinking water solution, thus out of compliance with safe drinking water requirements (e.g. no treatment, bottled water/no drink orders).
- This metric does not directly include private domestic drinking water wells impacted by nitrate contamination. However, private domestic wells in close proximity to the priority drinking water cases will also be identified and well users will be notified of drinking water exceedances and potential threat to public health.

**Number of Active Drinking Water Cases in Assessment**

This metric describes the number of priority drinking water cases actively managed by Water Board staff and these cases are currently undergoing assessment to identify sources of nitrate pollution.

**Number of Active Drinking Water Cases with Interim Replacement Water Actions**

This metric describes the number of priority drinking water cases actively managed by Water Board staff where (a) preliminary sources of nitrate pollution are identified and (b) interim replacement water actions are now implemented (e.g. replacement water is funded by responsible parties or grant or other funds).

**Number of Active Drinking Water Cases with Replacement Water and Nitrogen Load Reduction Requirements**

This metric describes the number of priority drinking water cases actively managed by Water Board staff where a) preliminary sources of nitrate pollution and potential responsible parties are identified, (b) interim replacement water actions implemented, and (c) replacement water requirements and nitrate load reduction requirements are in place to ensure safe drinking water and reduce nitrate pollution.

Groundwater Protection staff will continue to develop data management and reporting tools for these Drinking Water measures and a portion of these will become fixtures on our performance dashboard.

**Attachments**

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 – Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers